

Name: _____ Date: _____

“ALL IS CALM” BY ANN WALSH ANALYSIS GUIDE

Respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use your board note titled “Short Story Literary Elements” to help you answer these questions. Remember to include evidence from the story to support your answers.

1. Examine the title of this story. What character(s) do you think the title is referring to? Why?
2. What does the narrator (Katie) mean when she states, “She still had good days, times when she seemed so normal, so like her old self that it made it worse when she was off into whatever strange place the Alzheimer’s was taking her mind,” (154)? What does this say about the relationship between Katie and her Grandmother?
3. On page 155, Katie discusses her mother’s decision to put Gran in a home. Is Katie’s mother just in making her decision? What is the argument for and against her decision?
4. Imagine you are on the bus at the same time as Katie and her Grandmother on pp. 155-156. What would you do if you were in Katie’s position? What about if you were another passenger on the bus? How are your reactions similar to, or different from, those described in the story?
5. On page 156, Katie attempts to “untangle her fingers” from Gran’s as Christmas plans are being made. Why does Katie want to disassociate herself from her Grandmother in this manner?
6. What does it say about Katie’s character that she realizes she “mustn’t [...] get angry” (157) at the scene her Grandmother is causing?

REFLECTION

In a 1-page reflection piece, write about a time when you found common ground with someone you thought was very different from you. What preconceptions did you have about them before you got to know them? What preconceptions did this person have about you? How did you finally break the ice, and how did you discover your common ground? In what ways did your relationship change after you found this common ground?